

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Vol. 49, No. 28

www.laughlin.af.mil

July 20, 2001

the inside Scoop

Viewpoints:

The Laughlin wing chaplain discusses the importance of presenting a good first impression of Laughlin to base newcomers...

Page 2

News:

The Laughlin fuels flight services its 500,000th aircraft since 1991...

Page 5

Lifestyles:

Photos and story highlight Enlisted Appreciation Day...

Page 8

Sports and Health:

The 47th Operations Support Squadron defeats the 47th Medical Group to claim the 2001 intramural softball championship title...

Page 11

Air Power

Quote of the Week

"A man can criticize a pilot for flying into a mountainside in fog, but I would rather die on a mountainside than in bed. What sort of man would live where there is no daring. Is life itself so dear that we should blame one for dying in adventure? Is there a better way to die?"

—Charles A. Lindbergh

Base senior airmen 'movin' on up'

Compiled from staff reports

Thirty-nine Laughlin senior airmen were notified Thursday that they are selected for promotion to staff sergeant for the 01E5 cycle.

The Air Force chose 20,793 of 32,170 for an unprecedented 64.63 percent selection rate. This represents a 13.89 percent increase from last year's previous record of 50.74 percent.

More first- and second-term airmen than expected have chosen not to re-enlist the past two years, creating more vacancies.

The average selectee this year has 1.95 years time in grade and 4.73 years in service.

Those selected will be promoted to staff sergeant beginning in September and continuing to August 2002.

The complete list of selectees will be posted on the AFPC home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil Saturday.

Laughlin staff sergeant selectees are listed on page 4.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Col. Jack Egginton, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, presents a wing coin to Senior Airman Ronald Coleman, 47th FTW command post controller, at his house Thursday. The purpose of the colonel's visit was to inform Coleman that he is one of the 39 Laughlin senior airmen selected for promotion to staff sergeant for the 01E5 cycle.

President nominates Jumper as Air Force chief of staff

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush announced his nomination Monday of Gen. John P. Jumper as chief of staff of the Air Force.

Jumper, currently the commander of Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., has been serving in the Air Force since 1966, and has commanded a fighter squadron, two fighter wings, a numbered air force and two major commands.

Some of Jumper's previous Pentagon assignments include serving as deputy chief of staff for air and space operations. He also was the senior military assistant to two secretaries of defense and was a special assistant to the chief of staff for roles and missions.

Completing two tours of duty in

Southeast Asia, Jumper is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, principally in fighter aircraft. He has received numerous awards for his military service including the Distinguished Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters.

Jumper earned his undergraduate degree from the Virginia Military Institute in Virginia, and completed Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He received a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University in California, and then attended the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Photo by Staff Sgt. David McCarrison

Gen. John P. Jumper was nominated by the president Monday to be the next Air Force chief of staff. Jumper is currently the commander of Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va.



Commanders' Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Carl Swanson
Laughlin 47th Flying Training Wing chaplain

First impressions are important

My first impression of Laughlin was shaped by a friend. Upon hearing of my assignment here, he smiled and said, "I was stationed at Laughlin years ago. You'll experience the desert Southwest culture. You'll be a couple of hours from San Antonio. It has a vital mission to train pilots. You'll fit right in with your cowboy hat and truck." He gave me more than politically correct rhetoric. He sincerely welcomed me.

We train pilots here. But there's another mission here, too. That mission is for us to present a most positive first impression to all newcomers about our community.

First impressions shape how we interpret what happens next. A venture started with a positive attitude is far more likely to have a positive experience and outcome.

What were your first impressions of Laughlin? Those who helped you

in the first few weeks of your transition to Laughlin, largely determined the answer.

Did your sponsor greet you with enthusiasm and a pleasant smile? Did those who took your E-mails and calls prior to arrival, speak positively about our base and mission? Were you told you're needed on Team XL and thanked for your devotion to duty? Did your neighbors and co-workers welcome you?

If you came to the chapel, did we, did I, make a positive first impression?

Each warrior, civilian professional and loved one is precious. We all deserve to be welcomed with love and professional courtesy.

I'm not making a case for a codling Air Force. Make no mistake: we in military service are in a rugged business. The Bible alerts us to wars and rumors of wars across the span of human history. The daily news

confirms the biblical warnings.

To defend our nation, fortify our allies, and promote peace, freedom, human rights and dignity throughout the world, our mettle needs to be tested. Our skills need to be honed. We need trained and tough warriors, resilient families and tested civilians.

Spend a year at Laughlin and you will learn what you're made of in terms of stamina. Learn well now, because if you ever face combat, you won't have time for lessons.

I'm encouraging us to bolster the newcomers. Bless them with a smile, a few friendly words of encouragement or a handshake.

Wave to your neighbors. Volunteer, and then be a superb sponsor. You get the point.

Our newcomers present many opportunities to be a positive first impression with telling effects for the good of the whole world, far into the future.

Top Three Talk

By Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis
Laughlin career assistance adviser



First-termers should know important dates

New Air Force service members must absorb a lot of information. Career development courses help first-term airmen get their five skill level, while on-the-job training makes them proficient in their careers.

When first-termers acquire this knowledge, they may notice that a lot of their initial enlistment time is gone. They must then make a difficult decision – do I stay, or do I leave?

First-term airmen should decide if they enjoy their current jobs. If

they do, great! But, if they want to give other career fields a try, they should remember the time frames outlined below.

Crosstraining

The option to retrain is open to four-year enlistees with 35-43 months of service and for six-year enlistees with 59-67 months of service.

Re-enlisting

It isn't a right to re-enlist, it's a privilege. A commander decides whether or not an airman can re-en-

list under the Selective Re-enlistment Program. It's important that each Air Force person does his or her job the best they can.

If a first-termer's commander recommends them for re-enlistment, it is very important that they apply for a Career Job Reservation. A CJR allows the airman to reserve a slot in a particular career field.

Even those crosstraining or seeking employment in the civilian sector

See 'Dates,' page 3

Border Eagle



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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:
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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47th FTW motto

Correction

In the July 13 Border Eagle issue, Lt. Col. Jeff Ellis, 87th Flying Training Squadron commander, was the commander pictured in the Commanders' Corner, not Lt. Col. Scott Wiebe, 86th Flying Training Squadron commander.

'Dates,' from page 2

should get a CJR. Sometimes things change and you don't want to get caught short. For a list of available career fields, call the Military Personnel Flight at 298-5276.

After a person has been approved under SRP and the CJR is approved, he or she may re-enlist up to a year prior to the termination date of the original enlistment.

Below-The-Zone

Exceptional performers are eligible to compete in the promotion below-the-zone program after being promoted to airman first class. An airman qualifies for this program after reaching 36 months time in service and 20 months time in grade or 28 months time in grade, whichever occurs first.

An airman aiming to compete for this program should write down everything he or she has done, focusing on what the Air Force calls the whole-person concept. Anything related to education, leadership, awards, self-improvement, letters of commendation, volunteerism and giving to charity should be included. Anything that will reflect well on you as an airman should be documented prior to competing in the program.

If selected under BTZ, you will sew on senior airman six-months earlier than your normal promotion projection, allowing you to test for staff sergeant earlier than your peers.

Performance feedback

Performance feedbacks (Air Force Form 931) are a very important part of professional development. This identifies your overall strengths, weaknesses and set standards.

Your initial feedback is held within 60 days of being assigned a supervisor and every time you are assigned a new supervisor. If you have not had a performance feedback, request one from your supervisor.

Enlisted Performance Report

The Enlisted Performance Report is the most important piece of paperwork that is written on you. It is also based on the whole-person concept. This single piece of paperwork decides your destiny. It touches on BTZ, special duty assignments, retraining, SRP, assignments and, most importantly, promotions.

Normally, AICs or below receive the first EPR at 20 months time in service. If an AIC or below is permanently changing station prior to the initial 20-month EPR the supervisor should complete a letter of evaluation (Air Force Form 77) and place it in the personal information file prior to departure. Your gaining supervisor uses this information to write your EPR at your next duty station.

I hope this information has helped you make an informed career decision. Remember, ask your supervisor if you have questions. Your career and entitlements should be as important to you as they are to me!

Joggers, headphones cause traffic hazards

I learned a lesson I would like to pass on to my fellow joggers. The story goes something like this.

I was jogging through the base housing area, listening to a little Charlie Daniels Band on my trusty walkman. Then, all of the sudden this car appeared behind me from nowhere – dang near ran me over. Well, I ripped off my earphones and proceeded to tear into this guy sitting in his car. I didn't even take a breath when he tried to tell me that he had been following for the last 300 yards trying to get my attention so he could safely get around me. I didn't think much more about it until I got home. Then I thought about it quite a lot.

See, I jog almost every evening and always with my earphones – mainly so I can't hear myself in pain. When I thought about the other times I'd had close calls, I wondered how many of those I could have avoided if I would have only heard what was going on around me.

I did some checking and discovered a couple of tidbits I thought would be good to pass on to my fellow joggers:

■ When I wear earphones, I can't hear anything around me – traffic, horns, children, or even the 12 o'clock whistle.

■ I found out I'd been breaking a Department of Defense regulation in wearing my walkman in the first place. The regulation states, in ef-

fect, earphones can't be worn by joggers using on-base streets.

I tell you, I simply cannot jog and listen to myself gasp for breath. So, I did some more checking and found out that I could jog around the track.

Guess I can have my exercise and music, too! I just have to be more selective where I go.

So, for all you oxygen-starved joggers let me summarize. If you have to jog, think safety! In addition to wearing reflective clothing and warming up properly, be sure to jog only in approved locations, especially when wearing earphones.

Hope to see you at the track. I'll be the one panting and singing "Devil Went Down to Georgia."

Editor's note:

This article is provided courtesy of Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., safety office. The 47th Flying Training Wing safety office encourages Laughlin joggers to follow this advice. Recently, joggers have been running in high-traffic areas, such as the road from the West Gate into the base, during peak traffic hours. Because this gate is the 24-hour gate, joggers are jeopardizing their safety by running in this area.

Joggers can increase their safety and avoid traffic by running in areas such as the base track and on the jogging fitness trail.



Please recycle...

Actionline

298-5351

timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a



Col. Jack Egginton
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170



(Courtesy photo)

Nevada mission

Pilots of Laughlin's 87th Flying Training Squadron pose beside their T-38s at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The 87th deployed 20 T-38s, 40 instructor pilots and a maintenance support team to Nellis Air Force Base (home of the fighter pilot) June 20.

The group returned June 22. The pilots attended mission briefs from the United States Air Force Weapons School, Red Flag and the Threat Training Facility. Two IPs flew F-16 Weapons School basic fighter maneuver sorties.

39 base senior airmen make rank

Thirty-nine Laughlin senior airmen were selected for promotion to staff sergeant for the 01E5 cycle. They will be promoted beginning in



September and continuing through August 2002. Listed are the Laughlin staff sergeant selectees.

47th Comptroller Flight

Bridgette Chrisman
Manuel Laureles

47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Jason Barton
Carla Locklear
Shaila Lane
Justin Werlinger
Leslie Werlinger
Sandra Williams

47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Kenneth Legarda
James Surace
Michael Vaughn

47th Communications Squadron

Paul Doyle
Christopher Formes
Kasimu Greenidge
Derek Stamper

47th Contracting Squadron

Bruce Markman
Rafael Taylor-Arenas

47th Flying Training Wing

Jennifer Allphin
Tara Cole
Ronald Coleman

47th Security Forces Squadron

Shawn Elliott
Darrell Goff
Gregory Leonard
Eric Perez
Jessica Summerlin

47th Medical Operations Squadron

Alan James
Timothy Lantgen

47th Medical Support Squadron

Bianca Lueras

47th Mission Support Squadron

Angela Ripperda

47th Operations Support Squadron

Jason Beard
Leonard Buckless
Tanislao Canchola
Monique Carpenter
Jennifer Dill
Jeffrey Haislett
James Herbert
Jason Ripperda
Jon Rousseaux

47th Support Group

Roberto Hernandez

Newsline

Cessation classes meet

Tobacco-cessation classes will be held in the Health and Wellness Center conference room Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call Maj. Nina Watson at 298-6463 or Tech. Sgt. Ray Fernandez at 298-6464.

American Legion to meet

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post No. 298 will hold their regular meeting at "The Barn" across highway 90 from Laughlin's main gate at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information, call Murry Kachel at 298-2097.

Red Cross to teach sitters

The American Red Cross will hold classes on being a good baby-sitter at the base clinic July 28.

The course, designed for ages 11-15, costs \$30 per student.

For more information or to sign up, call 775-8626 or 298-6315.

Induction ceremony set

A senior NCO induction ceremony will be held at the Club XL ballroom at 7 p.m. July 28.

For more information or to R.S.V.P., call your first sergeant or Master Sgt. James Moon at 298-5372 or Master Sgt. David Morrison at 298-6415.

Drink causes positive test

The Jones Juice beverage, Dave, contains one gram of hemp and will make drinkers test positive for marijuana.

For more information, call the Life Skills Clinic at 298-6422.

Disaster training offered

The American Red Cross will hold disaster training starting July 28. The four-part course is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the Red Cross at 775-8626 or 298-6315.

Thrift shop seeks help

The thrift shop in Building 336 is looking for volunteers to work Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. all summer long.

For more information or to volunteer, call 298-5592.

Contractor refuels 500,000th aircraft

By **Steve Billingsley**

47th Support Group environmental compliance supervisor

The Laughlin fuels management flight, currently managed by Eagle Aviation and Services Technology, Inc., serviced its 500,000th aircraft July 12 since the operation went contract in 1991.

"We have been tracking this event for several months," said project manager Jerry Holt. "It was a milestone none of us could ever achieve while we were active-duty Air Force [because] none of our retired or prior military [people] were ever at one location long enough, or the base just didn't fly the number of sorties they do at Laughlin."

Unlike many Air Force bases, all Laughlin aircraft are serviced with refueling trucks alone. Ben Tarango, fuels distribution supervisor, said it is a task to keep the refueling trucks operating on the flightline and properly maintained at the same time.

"The wing is flying so much that all our vehicles are constantly moving or being expertly serviced by the EAST transportation refueling maintenance personnel," he said.

Since the contract began, 168 million gallons of jet fuel have been issued to base assigned aircraft, plus transient Air Force and Navy aircraft.

"With the sorties we generate, it takes a daily team effort to ensure we meet the wing's primary mission," said Robert Wood, maintenance director. "We continually get outstanding support from our fuels operation."

Tom Loose, EAST contract manager, said that effective fuels support is critical to the success of the 47th Flying Training Wing pilot training mission.

Maj. Robert W. Hicks, 47th Supply Division director, added to this statement. "Once again, Team Laughlin XLs," he said. "This is positive proof the Air Force decision to outsource some of the operations has resulted in a continued state of readiness."

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Web site makes commissary shopping easier

By Herb Greene

Defense Commissary Agency Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. – While people cannot drive to visit the world's busiest commissary, people can now "surf" there. That is because this "commissary" is located on a Web site.

Thanks to input from commissary patrons, DeCA's Web site at www.commissaries.com is now a place where shoppers can find out what is on sale at the commissary of their choice, and make up their own shopping list.

New and improved features on the Web site include a "savings aisle" button. Located in the site's "shopping" section, the savings aisle lets visitors see what is on special promotion at their local

commissary. Visitors can also build their own shopping list based on the actual list of items carried by the store they select. Special symbols highlight items that are on special. Items on the shopping list can be organized according to the individual's shopping patterns, placing the items they get first at the top of the list and the items they get last at the bottom.

Another new feature is the "what's new" section. Visitors can go there for the latest commissary news and information.

Visitors can also send their ideas and requests in a format designed to receive an appropriate level of response from their commissary, region or DeCA headquarters, by clicking on the "contact DeCA" button.

The "search" feature is located at the top right corner of each Web page to help visitors quickly find the information they want.

"Web technology enables the site designers to customize information down to the store level, which is good because shoppers care about what's going on at the store where they shop, not at the other commissaries around the world," said Corintha Russell, Web project manager, whose Web support branch designed the new features."

The Web site also uses the customized information approach. Each commissary maintains its own page, which features information ranging from store hours and store specialty services to dates of the next case lot sale.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Where are they now?

Name: Maj. Steven Kokora

Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 88-07, August 1988

Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: F-117A, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Mission of your current aircraft? Air to ground interdiction

What do you like most about your current aircraft?

Knowing that when the U.S. needs precision bombing in the highest threat combat arenas they call the F-117 first for the most dangerous missions

What do you dislike most about your current aircraft?

Having to leave it

What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? To make the most of where you live and what you do. An unfortunate person could have a lousy time at Disney World, but the best people to be around bring the fun with them.

What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Flying, skydiving, water-skiing and Mexico

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? You only have one chance to go through pilot training. Your only limitations are those you yourself impose.

3 x 7 1/2 V.V.R.M.C.



(Air Force courtesy photo)

Fun ...



(All photos by Airman Timothy Stein)

Sarai Wingate, daughter of Master Sgt. Charles Wingate, 47th Contracting Squadron, serves pie to Col. John Betts, 47th Support Group commander.

games ...



Airman 1st Class Frankie Morris, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron engineer technician, gets a hit during the softball competition at Babe Ruth Field.



Col. Jack Egginton, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, presents Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, with a memento to commemorate Laughlin's first Enlisted Appreciation Day.

cooperation ... mark wing's inaugural day of Enlisted Appreciation

By Tech. Sgt. Reginal Woodruff
Public affairs

The wing's first Enlisted Appreciation Day, held July 11, was called "a success" and "[an event] worth doing again" by Col. Jack Egginton, 47th Flying Training Wing commander.

According to 1st Lt. Melissa Parent, Company Grade Officers Council president, the event was intended to show gratitude and to foster fellowship. Many of the people who participated in the day's activities would probably agree that those goals were met.

"Enlisted Appreciation Day helped create an understanding of the importance of the enlisted corps as a whole," said Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart, 47th FTW command chief master sergeant. "The willingness of the CGOC to take on this function and the senior leadership's efforts to make it happen speak clearly about how much they value (enlisted people).

"It is important to note that nearly the entire officer corps supported this event in one way or another. I am very impressed with the entire effort and thankful that we have the leadership we do," said Enyeart.

Sporting events, seminars and a free car wash were held during the day-long event, which culminated with a cookout and a pie-in-the-face contest.

"The officers really know how to throw a party," said Senior Airman Shanda Eaton, 47th Comptroller Flight. "I mean, how often do you get to spend leisure time with your co-workers and smash the vice commander in the face with a pie for a great cause?"

Money from the pie-in-the-face contest will be used to subsidize ticket costs for junior airmen attending the wing's senior noncommissioned officer's induction ceremony.

"The day made me feel more appreciated and prouder to be enlisted," said Eaton.



Wing senior noncommissioned officers practice their slushing techniques.

Kelly's past: A strong part of aviation history

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman

Air Force Materiel Command public affairs

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas
(AFPN) — An aviation era came to a close July 13, as Kelly closed to become KellyUSA.

What was once a hub of Air Force aircraft depot maintenance is forecasted to become a modern business park designed to attract aircraft maintenance and cargo facilities.

This base was the epitome of service to country and community, said Ann Hussey, historian here December 1986 to June 1998.

"Service — from the beginning, that's what these people did," Hussey said.

A booklet titled, "Transforming Kelly, a San Antonio Success," recalls the base's beginning as a grass air strip in November of 1916. Less than six months later America entered World War I, and Kelly people helped the fledgling aviation section of the Signal Corps go to war.

In 1917, the base officially began pilot training and about 250,000 men assembled here during the next year. In the 1920s, the advanced flying school moved here and the base became a major supply and repair depot.

Visionaries serving here during this era included Charles Lindbergh, and future Air Force chiefs of staff Gens. Thomas White; Curtis LeMay; John McConnell; Hoyt Vandenberg; Carl Spaatz; Nathan Twining; and John Ryan.

"More pilots earned their wings at Kelly than at any other airfield in the United States during

World War I," Hussey said.

After World War I, government officials drew down the number of military people and closed some facilities, but Kelly remained open.

In 1939, with a new crisis building in Europe, Congress authorized \$300 million to strengthen the Army Air Corps. Almost overnight the Kelly maintenance population exploded from about 1,100 people to more than 20,000. About 40 percent of those workers were women known as "Kelly's Katies," the San Antonio version of "Rosie the Riveter."

During World War II, Kelly people trained more than 6,800 aviators. Base maintenance people worked on thousands of Army Air Corps aircraft and Kelly's World War II mission took on the huge industrial complex role it carried through the '90s.

The late '40s saw Kelly maintainers playing a major roll in history during the Berlin Airlift. Kelly was the only depot in the country repairing and overhauling the engines used on Army Air Force cargo aircraft carrying food and supplies to the besieged city.

The next decade saw Kelly maintainers working on a variety of aircraft like the B-52 Stratofortress and on into the jet age with the F-102 Delta Dagger, O-2 Skymaster and others.

In the '70s, C-5 Galaxies were maintained in Kelly's maintenance hangers. Base workers did engine and aircraft repairs and modifications on the Air Force "cargo giants," currently the world's second-largest aircraft.

When the C-5's wings started showing stress from carrying the massive weights — nearly a half-million pounds of takeoff weight — Kelly's program to strengthen them extended each aircraft's flying hours from 8,000 to more than 30,000.

This was the largest modification program an air logistics center ever managed, Air Force officials said.

From there, Kelly people welcomed injured military people home from Operation Just Cause in Panama where that country's dictator was arrested for drug-related crimes. And Kelly maintainers made sure C-5s were in service to move the mountains of material, munitions and thousands of passengers during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, where American and coalition forces ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"Kelly's people have responded wholeheartedly when called upon — regardless of the situation," Hussey said.

And even in the face of closure, Hussey said Kelly's people proved the mission came first.

"In 1998, three years after the closure was announced, they still surged to support Kosovo, even as their workloads were being transferred to other ALCs," Hussey said.

Now Kelly's uninhabited office buildings sit silent in the hot summer sun. Kelly's legacy continues and history will remember this place as a pinnacle of service and commitment.

(Courtesy of AFMC News Service)

Sisters sacrifice their long hair for kids without

By Senior Airman Bryan Bouchard

4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. — Most women have it. Rapunzel had more than her fair share. A lot of men do not have much, but most of them wish they did.

"It" is hair, and while most kids these days are worried about what kind of clothes they wear or getting the new Britney Spears album, the two daughters of Master Sgt. Tim Setzer, 4th Logistics Support Squadron here, looked beyond their own needs and donated their hair so children in need could have some hair of their own.

Ten-year-old Amber Setzer and her 14-year-old sister, Amy, had more than 30 inches of hair cut off recently so it could be donated to the national "Locks of Love" program. The program takes donations of healthy hair, at least 10 inches in length, and creates wigs for children diagnosed with cancer and other diseases who lose their hair from chemotherapy sessions.

The desire to participate with Locks of Love started about three years ago with Amber.

"We had some friends whose daughter had her hair cut and they gave the hair to Locks of Love," said their mother, Carla. That's when, then 7-year-old Amber said she wanted to do the same.

At the time, Amber said, her hair only went to the middle of her shoulder blades. Three years later, it was down to her waist, and at a local hair salon in Goldsboro, N.C., more than 16 inches of it was cut off.

Amber said her first reaction was, "Oh my goodness, it actually happened!" In the hands of the hairdresser was almost a foot-and-a-half of her once Rapunzel-like hair.

Amber's sister, Amy, who had more than 14 inches of hair cut off, said she wanted to get her hair cut anyway, but once she learned of Locks of Love, she wanted to grow her hair out long enough to donate as well.

"I knew I could help other kids who don't have hair," she said.

By thinking of others before themselves, both girls have made their parents proud.

"I was blown away when they wanted to do this," Tim said. "I thought it was so selfless of them. At this age, most kids would wonder, 'What's in it for me?' but not them."

Carla pointed out that it would have been just as easy to sell the hair to a wig manufacturer.

For the Setzers, their daughters' selflessness seems to be catching on. Tim said he was prepared to pay for the haircuts, but after learning what they were going to do with the hair, the hairdresser donated the haircuts and time she spent doing them. While at church the following Sunday, the girls were asked more than once about their hair, and two other girls asked if they could also donate their hair to Locks of Love.

Amber is happy her hair is shorter, because of the hot North Carolina summer. But Amy said she plans to grow her hair out, and in a few years, perhaps again donate to Locks of Love. (Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

The *XLer*



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Pat Rodriguez

Base clinic chief of laboratory services

Hometown: Carrizo Springs

Family: Wife, Monica; sons, J.P., 9, Tone, 6

Time at Laughlin: 2 years

Time in service: 7 years

Name one way to improve life at

Laughlin: Make a women's softball league so those women who don't wish to play with men have the opportunity to play one of the greatest games around.

Greatest accomplishment: Becoming chief of laboratory services

Hobbies: Softball, guitar, coaching, little league baseball and grilling anything over a mesquite fire.

Bad habit: Procrastinating

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite beverage: Iced tea or beer – depending on the situation

If you could spend one hour with any person, whom would it be and why?

My grandfather on my father's side. I never knew him and it would be great to sit, and talk about my family's history.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday

- Mass, 9:30 a.m.

- Confession by

appointment

- Little Rock Scripture

Study, 11 a.m. in

Chapel Fellowship Hall

Thursday

- Choir, 6 p.m.

Jewish

Max Stool, call

775-4519

Protestant

Sunday

- General worship, 11 a.m.

Wednesday

- Women's Bible

Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m.

at chapel

- Choir, 7 p.m. at

chapel

Muslim

Dr. Mostafa Salama,

Call 768-9200

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

OSS crushes Med Group to claim softball title

By Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

The 47th Operations Support Squadron defeated the 47th Medical Group, 17-3, to claim the Laughlin intramural softball championship title at Babe Ruth Field here Wednesday.

The OSS began to tack on runs during the top of the second inning when Paul Mitchell smashed one down the third base line for an inside-the-park home.

The Med Group held OSS to three runs in the first inning and scored one of their own when Dave Morrison hit a double over second base, driving in a run.

After the close of the second inning, OSS had advanced to a comfortable lead of 7-1 thanks to a

triple by David Doan and Mitchell's inside-the-park home run.

David Merritt hit a solo, inside-the-park home run at the top of the third inning, continuing OSS's onslaught.

The Med Group mounted a small comeback in the bottom of the third when Morrison hit one down the third base line to bring in a run. After another was driven in, bringing the score to 9-3. It seemed as though the Med Group had found its groove, but a caught pop fly ended the inning and Med Group's scoring.

That wasn't the case for OSS, though. During the fourth inning, it appeared as though they wouldn't put the finishing blow on their lead, getting tow outs and no runs. Then, Jason Ripperda knocked one in with a single. Merritt and others followed suit, bringing the score to 12-3. Then,

Blane Morgan smashed an inside-the-park home run, bringing the score to 15-3.

An injury-riddled Med Group team tried to get on its feet, but with all the injuries plaguing them, that was easier than it sounded.

"OSS hit the ball very well," said Hank Bowman. "We had a few injuries and kind of limped our way into the playoffs. But OSS played very well and that was what it took to win."

The OSS added two more runs to their score during the fifth to make it 17-3. A caught fly ball to right ended their at-bat, giving the Med Group one last chance to equalize the score before falling pray to the ten-run rule. No such luck was found.

The game ended at 17-3, with OSS being presented a softball trophy for their superior play during the championship game and throughout the season.

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